

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The deck of claim 4 [[1]] wherein the cover includes a pair of opposed side portions each having at least one opening therein for venting an area between the floorboard and the cover when the cover is positioned on the floorboard.
3. (Currently Amended) The deck of claim 4 [[2]] wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly from each of the side edges, ~~each of the overhangs projecting downwardly to at least a location of the corresponding at least one opening.~~
4. (Previously Presented) A deck comprising at least one floorboard having a top and a pair of opposed sides, at least two couplings each defining a channel therein and being positioned adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the floorboard, and at least one cover positioned on the floorboard such that corresponding portions of the cover are received and retained within the channels defined by the couplings, wherein each of the channels slopes generally downward towards an open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.
5. (Previously Presented) A deck comprising at least one floorboard having a top and a pair of opposed sides, at least two couplings each defining a channel therein and being positioned adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the floorboard, and at least one cover positioned on the floorboard such that corresponding portions of the cover are received and retained within the channels defined by the

couplings, wherein each of the couplings includes a lower surface within its channel sloping generally downward towards an open end of the channel to allow liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.

6. (Currently Amended) The deck of claim 4 [[1]] wherein each of the channels includes an inwardly bent portion engageable with a corresponding inwardly bent portion of the cover.

7. (Currently Amended) The deck of claim 4 [[1]] further comprising at least one joist below the floorboard and engaged with the couplings.

8. (Currently Amended) The deck of claim 4 [[1]] wherein each of the couplings includes at least one fastener slot.

9. (Currently Amended) The deck of claim 4 [[1]] further comprising a plurality of floorboards, and wherein at least one of the couplings is positioned between and in contact with each corresponding pair of the floorboards and sized to provide generally uniform spacing between the floorboards.

10. (Currently Amended) The deck of claim 4 [[1]] wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges, a middle portion, and an upper surface sloping generally downwardly from the middle portion towards the side edges.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[11]] wherein the cover includes a pair of opposed side portions each having at least one opening therein for venting an area between the board and the cover when the cover is positioned on the board.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[12]] wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly from each of the side edges, ~~each of the overhangs projecting downwardly to at least a location of the corresponding at least one opening..~~

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[11]] wherein each of the channels include a lower surface defining at least one opening therethrough for allowing a liquid to drain out of the channel.

15. (Previously Presented) A system for covering a board, the board having a pair of opposed sides, the system comprising at least one cover, and at least two couplings each of which is adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the board, each of the couplings defining a channel adapted to receive and retain therein a corresponding portion of the cover when the cover is positioned on the board, wherein each of the channels slopes generally downward towards an open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[11]] wherein each of the channels includes an inwardly bent portion engageable with a corresponding inwardly bent portion of the cover.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[11]] further comprising at least one other board below the board and engaged with the couplings.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[11]] wherein each of the couplings includes at least one fastener slot.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[11]] wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges, a middle portion, and an upper surface sloping generally downwardly from the middle portion towards the side edges.

20-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 [[11,]] wherein each of the channels includes a pair of inwardly bent portions, each of which are individually engageable with a corresponding inwardly bent portion of the cover for retaining an individual bent portion of the cover within an inwardly bent portion of the channel.

28-29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A system for covering a board, the board having a pair of opposed sides, the system comprising at least one cover, and at least two couplings each of which is adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the board, each said coupling defining a channel adapted to receive and retain therein a corresponding portion of the cover when the cover is positioned on the board, each said channel including a pair of inwardly bent portions that are individually engageable with a corresponding inwardly bent portion of the cover for retaining an individual bent portion of the cover within an inwardly bent portion of the channel, the inwardly bent portions of the channel and the corresponding inwardly bent portions of the cover having a cross-section that is generally U-shaped.

31. (New) The system of claim 30 wherein the cover includes a pair of opposed side portions each having at least one opening therein for venting an area between the board and the cover when the cover is positioned on the board.

32. (New) The system of claim 30 wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly from each of the side edges.

33. (New) A system for covering a board, the board having a pair of opposed sides, the system comprising at least one cover, and at least two couplings each of which is adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the board, each

said coupling defining a channel adapted to receive and retain therein a corresponding portion of the cover when the cover is positioned on the board, each said coupling including one or more fastener slots that are spaced apart to accommodate expansion of the couplings.

34. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein the cover includes a pair of opposed side portions each having at least one opening therein for venting an area between the board and the cover when the cover is positioned on the board.

35. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly from each of the side edges.

36. (New) A deck comprising at least one floorboard having a top and a pair of opposed sides, at least two couplings each defining a channel therein and being positioned adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the floorboard, and at least one cover positioned on the floorboard such that corresponding portions of the cover are received and retained within the channels defined by the couplings, each said channel including a pair of inwardly bent portions that are individually engageable with a corresponding inwardly bent portion of the cover for retaining an individual bent portion of the cover within an inwardly bent portion of the channel, the inwardly bent portions of the channel and the corresponding inwardly bent portions of the cover having a cross-section that is generally U-shaped.

37. (New) A deck comprising at least one floorboard having a top and a pair of opposed sides, at least two couplings each defining a channel therein and being positioned adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the floorboard, each said coupling including one or more fastener slots that are spaced apart to accommodate expansion of the couplings, and at least one cover positioned on the floorboard such that corresponding portions of the cover are received and retained within the channels defined by the couplings.